

ENGLISH ANCESTORS OF THE AMERICAN CHICKERINGS

Henry Chickering, born around 1560, lived in the parish of Branfield, county of Suffolk, England, from 1588 to 1595 and probably for a much longer period. He removed later to Ringsfield where he was living July 11, 1626 when he made his will. He is the earliest progenitor of the American family, whose connection can be established with absolute certainty. The probability of two earlier generations will be found noted in the introductory paragraph of this work. It is apparent that his widow Mary came to New England with her sons and was living at Dedham, Mass., November 20, 1646, on which day she resigned her interest in a parcel of land belonging to the Manor of Benacre Hall in the county of Suffolk, England. Study of the appended map will show that this was close to Wrentham, and here, within the bounds of the Benacre Manor, was undoubtedly the home of the original Henry Chickering.*

The English ancestry of Nathaniel Chickering (No. 64) of Dedham, Mass., has been fully established, as shown in this work,

*(From William Aspinwall's Notarial Records, 1644-1651.) "24 Nov. 1646. An attestation unto a writing bearing Date 20 Nov. 1646, whereby Mary Chickering of Dedham did resigne & deliver up her whole right & interest in a parcell of land belonging to the Manor of Benecar Hall in the County of Suffolke, unto John Chickering her Cosin the sonne of Henry Chickering of Dedham in New England. witness Eleazer Lusher." (p. 42)

"11 Jan. 1648. ffrancis Chickering of Dedham in the Countie of Suffk in N: E: did make ordeine &c. Mr. ffrancis Morse of Wrentham in the Count. of Suffolke, Junior, & Mr. John Morse of Beckles in the same Count. his true & lawfull Attis. granting them power jointly or severally for him & in his name to aske &c: of Edm. Thomson, late of Salem, in N: E: a certaine debt of fyve pound due by Bill (unto wch Jo: Joliffe is one witness, wch Joliffe uppon his oath did affirme before the Govr that he saw such a Bill signed &c by the sd Thomson; & Joseph Wise of Roxb: did also uppon oath testifie that he hath seene such a bill of fyve pounds & that the sd Thomson did acknowledge to him that he was so much indebted to Chickerling) & of the receipt to give acquittance &c: as in other prs of Attr wth power of substitution." (Ibid. 126-7)